

Enrollment Preferences Task Force Minutes: Meeting #5
Thursday, May 22, 2014
6:30 pm- Buena Vista Conference Center

Task Force members present:

- Representative Kim Williams, Delaware House of Representatives, Co-Chair
- Senator Nicole Poore, Delaware State Senate, Co-Chair
- Representative Darryl Scott, Delaware House of Representatives
- Senator David Sokola, Delaware State Senate
- Secretary Mark Murphy, Delaware Department of Education
- Frederika Jenner, Delaware State Education Association
- Yvonne Johnson, Delaware Parent Teacher Association
- Chuck Taylor, Charter School Network
- Susan Francis, Delaware School Board Association
- Dr. Victoria Gehrt, Superintendent from New Castle County Vo-Tech
- Dr. Deborah Zych, Superintendent from Polytech
- Gary Stockbridge, Delaware Business Roundtable
- Mark Pruitt, Magnet School Representative
- Diane Ruth, Charter School Representative
- Catherine Hegedus, Parent Representative

Staff present:

- Fran Fletcher, University of Delaware

Members Absent:

- Randall Hughes, Delaware State Board of Education
- Terri Hancharick, Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
- Lindsay O'Mara, Governor's Office
- Dr. Matthew Donovan, Delaware Association of School Administrators
- Dr. Mervin Daugherty, New Castle County Superintendent
- Dr. Kevin Fitzgerald, Kent County Superintendent
- Dr. David Ring Superintendent from Sussex County
- Donald Mell, Charter School Representative
- Julie Rumschlag, Magnet School Representative
- Dr. Terri Hodges, Parent Representative
- Dr. Allen Lathbury, Superintendent from Sussex Tech
- Elizabeth Lockman, Parent Representative

Public attendees:

- Donna Johnson, Delaware State Board of Education
 - Kristin Dwyer, DSEA
 - Michael Oboryshko, Community Member
 - Henry Clampitt, Community Member
 - Ron Russo, Community Member
 - Don Bates, Community Member
 - Tony Soligo, Community Member
 - Bill Doolittle, Community Member
 - Donald Gepharett, Community Member
 - Katey Semmel, Community Member
 - Mike Matthews, President of RCEA
 - Kathy Demarest, NCC Vo Tech
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Meeting was called to order at 6:51 p.m.

1. Introduction

Rep. Kim Williams, co-chair, asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the fourth meeting. The motion is made by Yvonne Johnson, seconded by Catherine Hegedus, and unanimously adopted by the task force. Representative Williams then turned the meeting over to Fran Fletcher of the University of Delaware who would be facilitating the rest of the meeting.

2. Action Items and Task Force Votes

Fran Fletcher instructed the task force to open the document to the section labeled "A: Behavior and Discipline." A vote was taken on item A1- "Ever expelled from a DE school." A motion was made to change "ever" to "currently" and include this question on the common application. 13 members voted yes with 1 no. Item A2 read "Copy of discipline record with incident list." Three votes were taken on this item. The first vote was to include item A2 on the common application. Zero members voted yes with 15 no. The second vote was to allow the option of permitting item A2 on a supplemental application. Zero members voted yes with 14 no. The third vote was to allow item A2 on a supplemental application if the school's mission is aligned with the records being requested. 14 members voted yes with zero no.

Fran Fletcher moved on to the next section labeled "B: Parent/Guardian Input." A vote was taken to include items B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, B7, B8 on the common application. Zero members voted yes while 13 members voted no. Item B1 read "In what ways do you feel the school will serve your child." A vote was taken to include item B1 on a supplemental application. Zero members voted yes with 12 members voting no. A vote was taken to include item B1 on an enrollment form. 4 members voted yes while 5 members voted no. Item B2 read "In what ways are you willing to be actively involved in your child's education." A vote was taken to include item B2 on a supplemental application. Zero members voted yes with 14 members voting no. A vote was taken to include items B3 through B8 on enrollment forms only. 13 members voted yes with zero members voting no. Item B9 read "What would you hope the school can provide for the student?" A vote was taken to include item B9 on enrollment forms only. 13 members voted yes with zero members voting no. Item B10 read "Is there any history of behavior difficulty, either in relationship to family, peers or academic setting? If so, has any evaluation or treatment been completed in relationship to these problems?" A vote was taken to ensure item B10 is included on enrollment forms only. 13 members voted yes with zero members voting no. Item B11 read "[signature required] I, as the parent/guardian, agree to take part in developing & participating in the educational program of my son/daughter throughout his/her school career." A vote was taken to include item B11 on an enrollment form in pursuit to Chapter 5 of the Delaware Code. 13 members voted yes with zero members voting no. Item B12 was omitted due to the similarities with item G7. A vote was taken to include items B13, B14, B15, B16, B17 on an enrollment form only. 13 members voted yes with zero members voting no.

Fran Fletcher moved on to the section labeled "C: Other Pre-Admission Requirements." Item C1 read "Tour with principal." A vote was taken to ensure that Item C1 was not permitted on the common application or a supplemental application. 14 members voted yes with zero members voting no. Item C2 read "Attend an information session." A vote was taken to ensure that item C2 was not permitted on the common application or a supplemental application. 14 members voted yes with zero members voting no. Voting will continue at the June 23, 2014 meeting.

****Note: A digital copy of the document can be found on***

<http://legis.delaware.gov/LIS/TaskForces.nsf/113411bdd5de74d385257b3b005e343c/49b267f532b422d185257b6c0061a658?OpenDocument>

4. Public Comment

Don Bates, a retired teacher and administrator from the Smyrna School District, stated that special education students are being denied access to Delaware's vocational schools. These students with learning disabilities should have access to these public schools.

Tony Soligo, a former principal of Smyrna School District, provided the following data: 15% of the student body of New Castle County is considered special education students. New Castle County vo-tech's student body has 12.2% that are considered special education students. Kent County has 15% of students that are considered special education. Polytech's student body has 9.3% that are considered special education students. 12.2% of Sussex County's student population is considered special education students while Sussex Tech's student body has 7.7% that are considered special education students.

Bill Doolittle submitted a letter from the US Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights and asked that the members of the task force take time to read through its contents.

Kristin Dwyer of DSEA thanked the members for serving on the task force and offered a reminder that the legislature has been tasked with defining what constitutes "interest."

Ron Russo thanked the members for their service and wished everyone a nice evening.

5. Next Steps

Next meeting: Monday, June 23rd, 2014 at the Buena Vista Conference Center from 6:30pm-8:30pm.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.